

BASEBALL

Tail End Clubs Will Get First Call on Waived Men

Major Leagues Act to Help Both Philadelphia Teams.

By DANIEL.

The wretched condition of both Philadelphia clubs apparently came in for considerable discussion at the joint meeting of the National and American leagues at the Commodore yesterday afternoon. Ways and means of lending the cellar occupants some assistance about the passing of a change in the rule regarding waivers, it was provided that the Phillies and the Athletics should get first choice of all players on whom waivers are asked in their respective circuits.

The change stipulates that in the event two or more clubs put in claims for a player on whom waivers have been asked the team holding the lowest position in the league standing shall have prior rights. This reform has been agitated for many years. Some of the owners are in favor of incorporating something along that line into the draft regulations just as the draft promotion is ironed out.

The joint meeting did not go into the draft question, nor did it tackle the rule which prohibits world series players from barnstorming, and which not Ruth and Meusel into their series. However, the club owners took up the question of allowing larger rosters and increasing the number of players who are permitted to play on optional agreements. Judge Landis informed the owners that he had uncovered considerable evasion of the optional agreement rule and considerable subterfuge. He insisted that hereafter everybody adhere to the rules, and that everything be above board.

15 Allowed Out on Option.

As a result of the number of players who may be sent away to minor league clubs under optional agreements was raised from eight to fifteen for each major league club. Some of the owners tried to increase the roster from forty to forty-five, but this was not allowed. Each club is allowed to carry 25 active players after May 15, the other fifteen allowed under the 40 player rule will be sent away on option.

It will be impossible to beat the rule, and will reduce the number of players owned outright by minor league clubs.

The leagues voted that hereafter no club with a full roster of forty players may send in a claim for a player on whom waivers have been asked. Hereafter many clubs have claimed a man and then released one to make room for another.

It also was decided that if a club gets a player by the waiver process and asks for a return, the manager must be ready during the playing season and ninety days during the off season, the team from which he was obtained shall have first claim on him.

Scouts Get Attention.

The club owners passed a rule prohibiting umpires from acting as scouts, and they also decided that no scout may work for more than one club. Some clubs have done duty for two and three clubs in the majors and a few in the minors, and many abuses have developed from this condition.

Judge Landis was relieved of the labor of considering the cases of voluntarily retired players who apply for privilege of returning to active duty. The player will take his case to the president of his league, who will decide whether he is to be sent to the minors or to the majors.

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Yanks Get Permission to Close Streets on Park Site

Long Shots Squeeze Home in Two Races at Jefferson Park.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 16.—Thimble, running in the R. J. Murphy coaches and ridden by Lang, with 105 pounds up, stood a long drive and succeeded in getting up in the last stride of the mile and seventy yards race at Jefferson Park today. Gray Gabes was the contender. It was Thimble's fourth start at the meeting and for the fourth time she was an actress in a nose finish.

Today's was her greatest effort because she was compelled to overcome repeated interference through the running and that thwarted her way through the proverbial knothole along the rail to make the accounting.

Thimble's win was one of the four close finishes of a day marked by surprises. Promising Tom, who took the second race, had been backed from 30 to 15 before the field was sent away, and he barely lasted to outstay Flyer, an Easterner, on which another killing had been attempted. The latter was probably best for she was forced wide around the final turn and finished going fastest.

The summaries:

First Race—For two-year-olds, colts and geldings; purse, \$600; six furlongs. Bill Brown, 107 (Hall), 15 to 1; Flyer, 7 to 1; 1st and 2nd; Gray Gabes, 10 to 1; 3rd; 4th; 5th; 6th; 7th; 8th; 9th; 10th; 11th; 12th; 13th; 14th; 15th; 16th; 17th; 18th; 19th; 20th; 21st; 22nd; 23rd; 24th; 25th; 26th; 27th; 28th; 29th; 30th; 31st; 32nd; 33rd; 34th; 35th; 36th; 37th; 38th; 39th; 40th; 41st; 42nd; 43rd; 44th; 45th; 46th; 47th; 48th; 49th; 50th; 51st; 52nd; 53rd; 54th; 55th; 56th; 57th; 58th; 59th; 60th; 61st; 62nd; 63rd; 64th; 65th; 66th; 67th; 68th; 69th; 70th; 71st; 72nd; 73rd; 74th; 75th; 76th; 77th; 78th; 79th; 80th; 81st; 82nd; 83rd; 84th; 85th; 86th; 87th; 88th; 89th; 90th; 91st; 92nd; 93rd; 94th; 95th; 96th; 97th; 98th; 99th; 100th; 101st; 102nd; 103rd; 104th; 105th; 106th; 107th; 108th; 109th; 110th; 111th; 112th; 113th; 114th; 115th; 116th; 117th; 118th; 119th; 120th; 121st; 122nd; 123rd; 124th; 125th; 126th; 127th; 128th; 129th; 130th; 131st; 132nd; 133rd; 134th; 135th; 136th; 137th; 138th; 139th; 140th; 141st; 142nd; 143rd; 144th; 145th; 146th; 147th; 148th; 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